

IN THE CLAIMS:

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-17 (cancelled).

18. (Currently amended) A distributed emergency lighting system for use in a building having one or more conventional lighting system areas powered from a source of alternating current (AC) voltage, said distributed emergency lighting system comprising:

an electroluminescent (EL) panel stripe;

a source of direct current (DC) voltage;

means electrically coupled to said DC voltage source for providing electrical power to said EL panel strip; and

said electrical power means further comprising control means for illuminating automatically without operator intervention said EL panel stripe from a non-illuminated state to an illuminated state for a predetermined designated lighting area of the one or more conventional lighting system areas within the building in response to an emergency input triggering event[.]; and

wherein said power means further comprises an EL power supply having an input coupled to the line side of an electrical switch supplying commercial AC power to the conventional lighting located in said designated area and to said DC voltage source in the absence of AC power at the line side of said electrical switch.

19. (Previously added) The distributed emergency lighting system as defined in claim 18, wherein said EL panel stripe is illuminated in said predetermined designated area for providing low-level path marking indicating a visual delineation of the path of egress.
20. (Currently amended) The distributed emergency lighting system as defined in claim 18, wherein said EL panel stripe is illuminated in said predetermined designated area for providing floor illumination within a prescribed distance from at least one wall of a room in accordance with emergency lighting code system requirements.
21. (Currently amended) The distributed emergency lighting system as defined in claim 19, wherein said EL panel stripe is a stripe of indeterminate length located on a floor and on a wall at or near the floor in the predetermined designated lighting area of the one or more lighting areas accordance with emergency lighting code system requirements.
22. (Currently amended) The distributed emergency lighting system as defined in claim 19, wherein said EL panel stripe is illuminated to light an exit sign at or near the floor in accordance with emergency lighting system code requirements.
23. Cancelled.
24. (Currently amended) The distributed emergency lighting system as defined in claim [[23]]18, wherein said EL power supply further includes means for adjusting the light intensity of the EL panel to a desired intensity.

25. Cancelled.

26. (Currently amended) The distributed emergency lighting system as defined in claim ~~[[25]]~~37, wherein said self-diagnostic circuit testing means includes detection of a normal operating circuit of an EL panel coupled to said control means.

27. (Currently amended) The distributed emergency lighting system as defined in claim ~~[[25]]~~37, wherein said self-diagnostic circuit testing means includes detection of an inoperative electrical power means.

28. (Currently amended) The distributed emergency lighting system as defined in claim ~~[[25]]~~37, wherein said DC source further comprises a battery and said self-diagnostic circuit testing means further comprises testing means for determining the charge capacity of the battery.

29. (Previously added) The distributed emergency lighting system as defined in claim 28, wherein said battery testing means further comprises means for connecting a test electrical load to the battery for a predetermined short time interval;

means for sensing the battery voltage during the short time interval that said test electrical load is connected, and

means for providing an alarm indication in response to the battery voltage falling below a predetermined voltage value during the voltage sensing time interval.

30. (Previously added) The distributed emergency lighting system as defined in claim 29, wherein the test electrical load is in the range of 10 to 20 times the electrical load of the emergency building lighting system.

31. (Previously added) The distributed emergency lighting system as defined in claim 30, wherein said predetermined short time interval is in the range of 10 to 30 seconds.

32. (Currently amended) The distributed emergency lighting system as defined in claim ~~[[25]]~~37, further comprising means for activating said self-diagnostic testing means in accordance with a predetermined time schedule.

33. (Currently amended) The distributed emergency lighting system as defined in claim ~~[[25]]~~37, further comprising means for manually activating said self-diagnostic testing means.

34. (Currently amended) The distributed emergency lighting system as defined in claim ~~[[25]]~~37, further comprising means for activating said self-diagnostic testing means in response to the conventional lighting system located in said designated area being turned on and off.

35. (Previously added) A distributed emergency building lighting system comprising:
an electroluminescent (EL) panel;
means for providing electrical power to illuminate said EL panel; and
control means electrically coupled to said electrical power means and said EL panel for illuminating a predetermined designated area within the building in response to an input stimulus;

wherein said power means further comprises an EL power supply having an input coupled to the line side of an electrical switch supplying commercial AC power to the conventional lighting located in said designated area and to a DC voltage source in the absence of AC power at the line side of said electrical switch, and

wherein said EL power supply further includes means for adjusting the light intensity of the EL panel to a desired intensity.

36. (Previously added) The distributed emergency building lighting system as set forth in claim 35 wherein said control means further includes self-diagnostic testing means for verifying operational conditions of the lighting system including the detection of an electrical short circuit and an electrical open circuit of an EL panel coupled to said control means.

37. (Previously added) A distributed emergency lighting system for use in one or more conventional lighting system areas in a building powered from a source of alternating current (AC) voltage, said distributed emergency lighting system comprising:

an electroluminescent (EL) panel stripe;
a source of direct current (DC) voltage;

means electrically coupled to said DC voltage source for providing electrical power to said EL panel strip wherein said electrical power means further comprises controller means for illuminating automatically without operator intervention said EL panel stripe from a non-illuminated state to an illuminated state for a predetermined designated conventional lighting system area of the one or more conventional lighting system areas within the building in response to an emergency input triggering event, and

self-diagnostic circuit testing means electrically coupled to said electrical power means and said EL panel stripe and said controller means for verifying operational conditions of the lighting system including the detection of an electrical short circuit and an electrical open circuit of an EL panel coupled to said control means.

38. (Previously added) A distributed emergency building lighting system comprising:

an electroluminescent (EL) panel;

means for providing electrical power to illuminate said EL panel;

controller means electrically coupled to said electrical power means and said EL panel for illuminating a predetermined designated conventional lighting area within the building in response to an input stimulus;

said power means for providing power to illuminate said EL panel further comprising an EL power supply having an input coupled to the line side of an electrical switch supplying commercial AC power to the conventional lighting located in said designated area and in the absence of AC power at the line side of said electrical switch to a DC voltage source;

said EL power supply further including means for adjusting the light intensity of the EL panel to a desired intensity, and

said controller means further including self-diagnostic testing means for verifying operational conditions of the lighting system including the detection of an electrical short circuit and an electrical open circuit of an EL panel coupled to said controller means.